

NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as Chief of Police for North Plainfield. Our Borough is unique with its diverse population and the police department comprises of some of the finest people in law enforcement. My goals and objectives are quite simple; I want to make North Plainfield the safest place to live, work, play and visit. We will engage the community as full partners to accomplish this task. Thank you, Mayor Lawrence La Ronde, for having the confidence and trust in me to do this job and I pledge to do my best in serving the residents of North Plainfield, its government, and the police department.

Prepared For:
Mayor Lawrence La Ronde
Date: January 31, 2024

Prepared By:
Chief William Parenti
263 Somerset Street
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Protecting with Pride... Sewing with Honor
www.northplainfield.org/nppd

NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. MISSION STATEMENT:

My top priority is to build mutual respect, and to provide equal opportunity policing for everyone that lives, works, or passes through the Borough of North Plainfield. By this I mean, Law Enforcement Services that will be fair, honest, and without bias.

The police department's trustworthiness, comes from being a Welcoming and Inclusive Community. It is imperative that our residents and visitors feel safe, respected, and comfortable in being themselves, while also being able to express all aspects of their identities. We are a place where each person shares a mutual sense of belonging with our other members. Inclusion, as well as the appreciation of, and the valuing of human differences, creates an atmosphere that promotes a sense of belonging, so that everyone feels respected and valued for their uniqueness. It is home. A Proud Community.

The North Plainfield Police Department, wants to instill a belief in our community policing philosophy, and establish a confidence that "we as police officers, care more about your well-being than your immigration status, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation." In many communities across New Jersey, the relationship between members of the community and law enforcement is strained. Our mission as police officers is to protect life, property, and to solve crimes without bias. That goal would be virtually impossible to do effectively, if witnesses or victims had some reluctance to come forward. We have no concern about a person's immigration status, and we do not ask that question of a victim or witness. It is imperative that law enforcement maintain the trust and support of the people they serve.

A high priority is placed on the initial screening and training of all our employees, and a continuing in-service training program is designed to keep us current with modern law enforcement practices. Our goal is to combine high personal ethics, quality training, and perseverance, to provide the best possible policing to all citizens, as well as to the people of North Plainfield.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

A. Staffing: The Police Department is operating below its authorized strength of 48 sworn officers. Staffing and deficiencies:

1. Two (2) Police Officers
2. Two (2) Class III Officers

B. Injured Officers During the Calendar Year for 2023

1. Det. William Parenti Jr. was involved in a motor vehicle accident on November 9, 2022 and remains out of work.
2. Ofc. Alexis Castillo transitioned to maternity leave/FMLA on June 2, 2022. She returned to full duty on February 21, 2023.

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3. Sgt. Donald Everett was out of work since July 27, 2022 for a non-work-related surgery. He was on light duty starting September 14, 2022. He returned to full duty on February 5, 2023.
4. Ofc. Tyler Rayner was involved in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a call for service on March 24, 2023. He returned to full duty on May 25, 2023.
5. Ofc. Gonzales injured his back on duty on August 7, 2023 and was cleared for light duty on August 14, 2023. He returned to full duty on August 24, 2023.
6. Ofc. Alexis Castillo sustained a finger injury while on duty on August 18, 2023 and was cleared for full duty on August 21, 2023.
7. Ofc. Romasz injured her leg while investigating a motor vehicle accident on December 19, 2023. She remains out of work.

C. Promotions, New Hires and Retirements

1. Effective January 3, 2023, Richard Lopez was hired as a Police Dispatcher.
2. Effective January 25, 2023, Cynthia Cancel transferred from Police Dispatcher to full-time Parking Enforcement.
3. Effective February 1, 2023, Patrolman Robert Kropewnicki retired.
4. Effective February 1, 2023, Parking Enforcement Dana Downing retired.
5. Effective February 6, 2023, Diana Galvez was hired as a Police Dispatcher.
6. Effective February 6, 2023, Sabrina Brison was hired as a SLEO III.
7. Effective February 20, 2023, Police Dispatcher Dalton Lott resigned.
8. Effective March 27, 2023, Stephanie Corona-Morales was hired as a Police Dispatcher.
9. Effective May 1, 2023, Patrolman Timothy Boykoff retired.
10. Effective June 13, 2023, Patrolwoman Steffany Marroquin graduated from the Police Academy.
11. Effective December 7, 2023, Kieran Green was hired as a Probationary Police Officer.
12. Effective December 28, 2023, Police Dispatcher Diana Galvez resigned.

III. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION:

A. Case Log Report:

1. A comparison of general adult investigations for the past three years:

	2021	2022	2023
Investigated	1060	930	966
Active	25	27	24
Suspended	425	426	494
Closed	610	424	448

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Forwarded to SCPO	63	42	55
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2. A comparison of juvenile investigations for the past three years:

	2021	2022	2023
Investigated	152	190	170
Active	3	3	0
Suspended	6	15	15
Closed	143	168	155
Forwarded: other agencies	57	45	15

IV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- A. During 2023, community outreach programs remained in place.
- B. The Youth Police Academy was held in July at the West End School and once again was a great success with 25 cadets graduating. Several recruits returned for a second time. The STEP program was also held over the summer. Both D/Sgt. Domizi and Det. DeJesus participated in the program.
- C. National Night Out was a great success with hundreds of borough residents in attendance. D/Sgt. Domizi coordinates the event and all of the vendors and participants. Det. DeJesus had a display for the school and Lt. Ciempola attended to assist.
- D. The Community Policing Unit oversees the Good Morning Program for the Borough’s senior citizens. Every morning any senior citizen in the program receives a telephone call from a police officer to see if they are alright. If the senior citizen does not answer, a welfare check is conducted. The community policing unit also oversees the residential and business false alarms. Follow up investigations are conducted and warnings and summons are issued when appropriate. D/Sgt. Domizi issued 198 first time alarm notifications and 114 General Alarm notifications.
- E. Detective Domizi remains a member of the Municipal Alliance committee and he is also the liaison to the Resource Center of Somerset County which provides assistance to victims of domestic violence. Both D/Sgt. Domizi and Lt. Ciempola attended the North Plainfield Community Forum Meetings. Lt. Ciempola also attended meetings of the Juvenile Justice Commission’s “Race, Equity and Inclusion” sub-committee bi-monthly.
- F. Operation Watchdog, which allows all home owners and business owners to register their surveillance systems with the department, remains in place. Residents continue to participate in the program.

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G. The Special Law Enforcement Officer III is in operation, providing specially trained retired police officers for security in our schools. At this time, three SLEO III officers are employed by the Borough and are under the supervision of Det/Sgt Albert Domizi.

V. SOMERSET COUNTY GUNS AND GANG TASK FORCE:

A. In 2023, Officer James Kirchner was assigned to the Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force (OCNTF). The Task Force made 22 undercover buys and executed 2 search warrants in North Plainfield which culminated in 5 arrests. With the legalization of Marijuana and the team no longer doing street buys we decided to not send an officer for 2024. We are using that officer for the new Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation “ARRIVE” program and other detective duties. We will continue to send an officer when it is our turn in the rotation.

VI. INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

A. During 2023, the police department logged 15 Internal Affairs complaints. Lt. Ciempola investigated 10, Lt. Speck investigated 4, and another agency investigated 1. See our website for Major Discipline as per the Attorney Generals Directives.

Investigation #	Classification	Disposition	Corrective Action
23-01	Rules Violation	Unfounded	N/A
23-02	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-03	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-04	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-05	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-06	Rules Violation	Exonerated	N/A
23-07	Domestic	Exonerated	N/A
23-08	Demeanor	Exonerated	N/A
23-09	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-10	Rules Violation	Pending	Pending
23-11	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-12	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-13	Rules Violation	Pending	Pending
23-14	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
23-15	Rules Violation	Pending	Pending

VII. PATROL DIVISION:

A. The Patrol Division had 12 marked patrol cars in service and logged the following miles of patrol for the last three years.

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	2021	2022	2023
Patrol Miles	179,771	201,995	178,929

We are looking into the reasons why patrol miles dropped. I firmly believe a conspicuous Patrol operation communicates a sense of protection to our citizens, and acts as a deterrent to criminal or mischievous activity. The drop may be because of all the additional posts e.g. radar, loud exhaust and parking summonses issued taking time form patrolling.

B. Traffic summonses issued: A comparison of the last three years:

Type of summonses	2021	2022	2023
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	35	41	47
Moving Hazardous Violation	578	794	893
Moving Non-Hazardous Violation	1,419	2,059	2,033
Borough Ordinance Violation	91	139	52
Parking Violation	2,603	1,659	14,083
Radar	470	381	433
Written Warnings	3,376	3,376	4,005
Totals	9,545	10,787	23,002
Refusal Breath Test Included in (DWI above)	6	10	14
Summons included in above totals	6,169	7,411	18,997

Note the 12,424 or a 748 percent increase in parking summons for 2023.

New is 2023 we started tracking	2023
Loud Exhaust	120
Loud Exhaust Warnings	55

C. Radar: Officers spent 2,459 hours on those posts

Belmont Avenue	North Drive
Brook Avenue	Norwood Avenue
Clinton Avenue	Oneida Avenue
Columbia Avenue	Parkview Avenue
Craig Place	Pearl Street
Crosson Place	Regent Street
Farragut Road	Richard Way
Geraud Avenue	Rock Avenue
Greenbrook Road	Rockview Avenue
Glen Court	Route 22 East

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Grove Street	Route 22 West
Howard Street	Somerset Street
Jefferson Avenue	Sycamore Avenue
Leland Avenue	Warfield Road
Linden Avenue	Washington Avenue
Maple Avenue	Watchung Avenue
Manning Avenue	West End Avenue
Mercer Avenue	Westervelt Avenue
Mountain Avenue	Willow Avenue
Myrtle Avenue	Wilson Avenue
Netherwood Avenue	

D. Parking Enforcement Report

Year end totals:

	2021	2022	2023
Total Summons Issued	4,591	6,016	10,912

Revenue:

	2021	2022	2023
Meters	105,636.01	120,367.49	148,623.94
Permits	16,930.00	16,900.00	23,920.00
Total	122,566.01	137,264.49	172,543.94

Note: the large \$34,279 dollar increase. Heaver parking enforcement also leads to more people putting money in the meters. The meters were bagged from 12/13/23-1/2/24 for the holiday season (only Title 39 was enforced during this period).

VIII. RECORDS DIVISION:

A. Fees collected: A comparison of the last three years:

	2021	2022	2023
Fees Collected	5,470.05	5,378.99	18,819.00
Calls for Service/Responses	38,533	44,042	44,830
Discovery Requests	427	521	472
Report Requests	1,883	798	125
Pieces of Evidence/Property	465	401	314

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B. Yearly Arrest Analysis, a comparison of the last three years:

	2021		2022		2023	
	Adult / Juvenile	Adult / Juvenile	Adult / Juvenile	Adult / Juvenile	Adult / Juvenile	Adult / Juvenile
Murder	0	0	3	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	1	0	1	0	3	0
Robbery	0	0	2	0	2	0
Aggravated Assault	7	0	9	1	13	0
Burglary	2	0	2	0	2	0
Larceny/Theft	18	2	12	4	8	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	51	0	57	1	79	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forgery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud	2	0	2	0	7	0
Embezzlement	1	0	1	0	0	0
Stolen Property	0	0	4	0	1	0
Criminal Mischief	6	0	2	0	2	0
Weapons	4	3	5	1	4	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	1	0	0	0	0	0
Violation of Drug Laws	13	2	8	0	7	0
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offenses Against Family & Children	2	0	1	0	1	0
Driving Under the Influence	34	0	37	0	48	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	6	1	10	0	8	0
Vagrancy	1	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew and Loitering Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other Offenses	25	3	31	1	41	1
Total UCR Arrests	173	11	187	8	226	1
COC other Arrests	61	3	92	2	52	2
Total Arrests	234	14	279	10	278	3

IX. UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

A. The following is a comparison of the Uniform Crime Offenses, Part I, for the past five years:

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Year	Crime Index Total	Violent Crime	Non Violent Crime	Crime Rate Per 1,000	VIOLENT CRIME						NONVIOLENT CRIME					Domestic Violence	Bias Incidents
					Violent Crime Per 1,000	Non violent Crime Rate Per 1,000	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson			
2019	329	48	281	15.0	2.3	12.8	1	11	26	10	36	234	11	0	233	0	
2020	327	25	302	15.4	1.2	14.2	0	2	17	6	23	265	14	2	302	15	
2021	361	68	293	15.8	3.0	12.8	2	4	43	19	22	236	35	2	264	9	
2022	351	35	316	15.4	1.5	13.9	1	8	13	13	25	263	28	1	272	6	
2023	432	50	382	18.9	2.2	16.7	0	11	21	18	34	319	29	0	324	4	
Up/Dn	81	15	66	4	1	3	-1	3	8	5	9	56	1	-1	52	-2	
%	23.1	42.9	20.9	23.1	42.9	20.9	-100.0	37.5	61.5	38.5	36.0	21.3	3.6	-100.0	19.1	-33.3	

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA			POLICE EMPLOYEE DATA			
Area in Square Miles	Density Per Square Mile	Character	Male Officers	Female Officers	Civilian	Total Police Employees
2.8	7,860.71	Urban/Sub	46	1	8	55
2.8	7,603.21	Urban/Sub	44	2	8	54
2.8	8,145.71	Urban/Sub	47	3	10	60
2.8	8,034.64	Urban/Sub	46	3	11	60
2.8	8,105.36	Urban/Sub	45	5	11	61
2.8	71	Urban/Sub	-1	2	0	1
100.0	0.9	Urban/Sub	-2.2	66.7	0.0	1.7

X. TRAFFIC SAFETY:

A. A comparison of vehicle crash information for the last three years:

	2021	2022	2023
Total	869	958	1,068
Summons Issued for crash	500	561	734
Refuse Breath Test	4	4	4
Driving While Intoxicated	22	19	29
Hazardous	311	366	476
Non-Hazardous	162	171	223
Alcohol Related	1	1	2

B. Breakdown of Reportable and Non-Reportable Crashes for the last three years:

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	2021	2022	2023
Rt 22-Reportable	298	320	328
Rt 22 Non-Reportable	6	4	4
Boro Streets - Reportable	425	481	577
Boro Streets - Non-Reportable	10	4	8
Private Property - Reportable	119	136	145
Private Property - Non-Reportable	11	13	6
Total Reportable	842	937	1,050
Total Non-Reportable	27	21	18

C. Crash Injury Report for the last three years:

	2021	2022	2023
Reports W/Injuries	142	171	227
Persons Injured	189	234	273
Fatal	0	0	0

XI. TRAINING DIVISION:

The Department Training Sergeant is responsible for providing all State mandated training for the department. Additional duties include vehicle maintenance, securing, maintaining and copying the in-car video recordings, and updating the files needed to maintain our coveted Accreditation.

In 2023, the members of the Department were instructed in various police related topics which are divided into the following categories by the NJ Attorney General's Office:

- A. Mandatory Training- Firearms (General Order Review and Qualifications), Use of Force, Pursuit Driving, Domestic Violence, Eradicating Racial Profiling, Cell Block Use and Management, Ethics, Firearms, Use of Force, and Domestic Violence were two times during the training year.
- B. Mandatory In-Service Training Due to a Particular Assignment- Use of Force (Semi-Annually), Pursuit Driving (Semi-Annually), Right to Know, CLEAR Training (Asian American Pacific Islander), Dealing with the Mentally Disturbed, CJIS (New hires), Narcan, Domestic Violence (Semi-Annually), Bloodborne Pathogens Training, OC Spray, Racial Profiling, Jail Cell Management (New Hires), Handgun Qualification (Semi-Annually), Bias Crimes (New Hires), ASP (New Hires), CPR Certification (Chief/Captain), CPR Refresher, Active Shooter Training Drill, PPE Fit Test, Ethics (New Hires), Workplace Sexual Harassment (New Hires), Tourniquet Training, HazMat Training, Rifle Qualification (Semi-Annually), Rifle Familiarization Fire (Semi-Annually), FTO Instructor Program, Supervisor Performance Evaluation Training, Dispatcher Responsibilities During Active Shooter, Ambush on Police (New Hires), BWC Training (New Hires), Community Policing, Department Confidentiality,

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Law Enforcement Jujitsu/Defense Tactics/Handcuffing, Fair and Implicit Bias Training, NJ State ALPR Training, ICAT/ABLE Training.

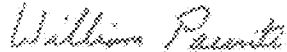
- C. Voluntary In-Service Training- Handle with Care (New hires), Lojack Training (New hires), Patrol Rifle Assessment, PSE&G Natural Gas Public Awareness, NPPD Training, eAgent Training
- D. Department Off-Site Continuing Education Courses- Members of the Department, to enhance personal development and professionalism, were instructed in the following police related topics. These classes consisted of the following:
- Alcotest
 - Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving
 - Drug Impaired Driving
 - Ballistic Shield Instructor Course
 - Basic Crash Investigation
 - Digital Photography
 - NJDHTS Work Zone Safety
 - First Line Supervisor
 - Advanced Forensic Interviewing
 - VICAP Database
 - Geofence Investigation
 - Safe Schools Resource Officer
 - Basic Criminal Investigation
 - Active Threat Integrated Response
 - Seizing Digital Media & Cyber Investigations
 - Defensive Tactics
 - Intelligence Lead Policing
 - Practical Internet Security
 - Successful Use of Social Media
 - CIT Training
 - ICS-200 In Person
 - One Day One Man Emergency Training
 - Active Shooter Incident Management Advanced Training
 - Traffic Incident Management Training
 - Active Shooter Threat Instructor
 - FTO School
 - Applied Physics for Crash
 - Numeric Crash Analysis
 - Behavioral Threat Assessment
 - Counterfeit Document Training
 - Document Fraud Training
 - Dusting & Lifting Training
 - Debriefing Lessons Learned Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting
 - Terminal Agency Coordinator

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- Forceable Entry for Patrol Response
- Northern Red One
- Basic Computer Crimes
- Basic Course for Arson Investigators
- Art of Interviewing
- NIBRS & Enforsys Training
- DWI SFST
- Child Passenger Safety Seat Tech
- Basic Internal Investigation
- Methods of Instruction
- Computer Competency Excel I
- Report Writing

E. Accreditation- Every standard was filled with department policy and 86% of the proofs needed for the second-year assessment.

Respectfully submitted,



William G. Parenti

Chief of Police